

**GUILTY PLEA IN
JEWETT SLAYING
KYLE GOWEN GETS
LIFE IN PRISON** {page 4}



GOT TALENT?
OSBOURNE DISHES
OUT TOUGH LOVE
ON TV {page 17}



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'Groupthink' blamed in scandal

► Concert-cash report three months in making ► Most of 2010 advance not paid back ► City on hook for \$359,550



► HRM Auditor General Larry Munroe speaks with reporters at city hall after delivering his report into concert cash advances yesterday.



**JENNIFER
TAPLIN**
@METRONEWS.CA

Pressure for concerts on the Halifax Common and competition with Moncton prompted cash advances to a concert promoter, according to HRM's auditor general.

But Larry Munroe wouldn't name names at a press conference yesterday, other than former acting chief administrative officer Wayne Anstey.

But his report states Anstey and Mayor Peter Kelly were "directly involved to varying degrees." Munroe told reporters there was a general desire across several organizations to put on the concerts.

Safeguards and proper procedures were "ignored or overridden," according to the report.

The 96-page document delves into the history of five HRM cash advances to Power Promotional Events going back to 2008.

Munroe said some people acted outside their normal roles and responsibilities. The "groupthink" at the time was concerts were in the best interest of HRM residents.

"I think people moved towards trying to ensure there were concerts on the North Common," said Munroe.

The report suggests there were

"We recognize that change is required, and I take full responsibility for ensuring we make the appropriate changes to be more accountable."

**STATEMENT FROM SCOTT FERGUSON,
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF TRADE CENTRE
LIMITED, THE OPERATOR OF THE METRO
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a number of red flags raised early to prove cash advances were risky and there should have been questions asked.

"By doing so, HRM effectively transitioned from a supplier of a venue to the financial backer of concerts, risking taxpayers' money," the report says.

There are 52 recommendations including mandatory ethics training for all staff and, as leaders, it is suggested council should go first. It was also recommended that HRM no longer give cash advances, and look into clarifying "legislated or authorized roles."

Also, the Metro Centre fund, which was used for the concert cash advances, should be used for Metro Centre events only unless authorized by council.

Kelly responds {page 3}

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Kelly reaffirms he's staying put

► HRM's legal department looking into recovering \$359,550 from 2010 cash advance to concert promoter

JENNIFER
TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

Lessons were learned and questions should have been asked, but Mayor Peter Kelly said again yesterday he's not stepping down.

"Clearly the processes were not clear and they need to be made clear," he told reporters after the auditor general's report into concert cash advances was released.

There was a competition for concerts in the Maritimes and it "probably" played a role, he said.

"But we have to make sure whatever we do is in the realm of policy and procedures."

Kelly's involvement, which has always been vague, is detailed in the 96-page report. He was instrumental in helping getting concerts to the city.

But the report says only four of the six contracts he signed were properly vetted by the legal department.

It also states Kelly "had access to information and the opportunity to raise concerns through a variety of policies and business practices."

Kelly and former acting chief administrative officer Wayne Anstey, a former lawyer, should have known better, the report says.

They "should have



"The question (is) why were 23 councillors kept in the dark?"

COUN. SUE UTECK

asked more questions to determine if what they were contemplating and/or doing was appropriate, especially given the method of arranging for payments," reads the report.

Coun. Sue Uteck went on the attack and said HRM should never have gotten into the concert business.

"When you read the report extensively it was a pattern.... It was like the mafia with a meeting in a restaurant to advance funds," she said. "How did this happen?"

She said she wants further information before deciding if the case should be handed over to the RCMP.

Kelly told reporters "there is no criminal element here."



► Mayor Peter Kelly reads Auditor General Larry Munroe's report into concert cash advances at city hall yesterday.

AUDITOR GENERAL

Time to review report debated

Some councillors demanded immediate answers to their questions on the auditor general's report, but several others wanted more time to digest it.

Councillors saw the re-

port for the first time when it landed on their desks during a regular council meeting yesterday.

For over an hour, councillors debated a motion to send the report to the audit and finance committee and the chief administrative officer Richard Butts.

"To send it directly to the CAO absolves council of all responsibility. You might as well kiss this council goodbye," argued Coun. Sue Uteck.

Coun. Jennifer Watts

agreed and said there are questions that need to be asked.

But Coun. Dawn Sloane and several of her colleagues said a few hours isn't enough to thoroughly examine the document.

"It's not fair to jump in and ask questions right away," Sloane said.

To do anything other than delay debate is just "making political hay," said Coun. Steve Streach.

It's expected to be back before council in two weeks. ● JENNIFER TAPLIN

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news



String of accidents put the safety of 'bounce houses' in the spotlight.

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Vancouver's notorious Green Men wade into hostile territory in Boston. Video at metronews.ca

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Twisted Sisters back in spotlight

Twisted Sisters, the development that brought such controversy to city hall five years ago, is back.

Coun. Dawn Sloane recently learned that the development agreement for the twin 27-storey towers on Granville Street expired more than a year ago.

The developer, United Gulf, bought the land from the city for \$5.3 million and was given four years to get going on the project. An agreement was signed in 2006, but it was bogged down by an 18-month appeal. Then the economy tanked, said Jennifer Tsang, a planning consultant with United Gulf.

"We feel it's a significant development agreement and without the benefit of a staff report or some review of all the implications, it would be premature to discharge it at this time," she told council yesterday.

Tsang said the company is working on a revised design and council should have it within weeks.

But the tricky part is if



"People are looking at us to be the leaders we're supposed to be and get developers to do what they said they'd do."

COUN. DAWN SLOANE

the development is substantially changed, it now has to comply with HRM by Design. It would have to be reduced by seven storeys and there would be no appeals to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

"If it's council's wish to have an empty lot on this site for 20 years, this is the way to do it," said Coun. Russell Walker.

In the end, council put off the decision pending a staff report. The report should return to council in September. ● JENNIFER TAPLIN

Big-box bylaw booted

Dawn Sloane's novel business idea just didn't fly.

At yesterday's council meeting the downtown Halifax councillor proposed that big-box stores should have to open small satellite stores downtown if they want to put a

new store into any HRM business park.

Coun. Reg Rankin said it would be "ill advised" and would scare off investors. Coun. Jerry Blumenthal said that if a Wal-Mart popped up downtown, boutiques would suffer.

Sloane was commended by her colleagues for getting downtown to dominate the conversation for nearly an hour, but her motion was heavily defeated. ● JENNIFER TAPLIN

Gowen pleads guilty in Jewett killing

- ▶ Two others accused of murder
- ▶ Fourth charged as accessory



PHILIP CROUCHER
@METRONEWS.CA

The Crown says life in prison with no chance of parole for 15 years is the right sentence for Kyle Brian Gowen.

The 23-year-old from Eastern Passage was handed the sentence yesterday at Kentville provincial court after pleading guilty to second-degree murder in the killing of Dillon Blair Jewett.

"I can indicate that it was after a thorough analysis of the evidence that was gathered through an extensive police investigation that we, the Crown, came to the conclusion that accepting a guilty plea to second-degree murder was appropriate in the circumstances," said Alison Brown, one of two provincial Crown attorneys overseeing the case.

Gowen was originally



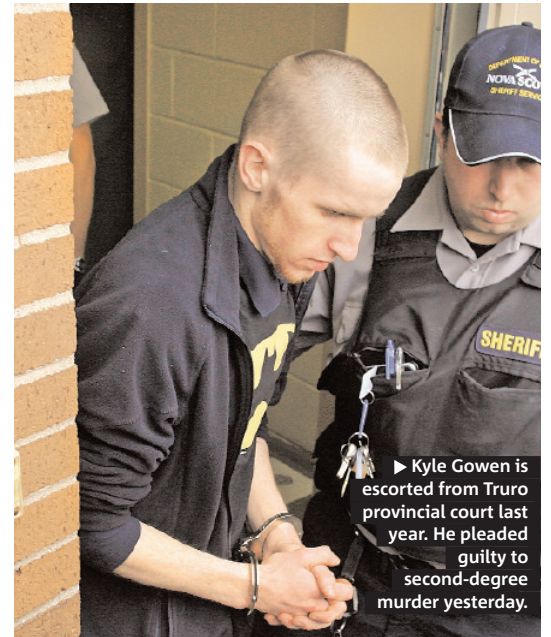
▶ Steven Gowen

charged with first-degree murder in the killing of Jewett, an 18-year-old from Dartmouth, who was found shot to death near an East Uniacke quarry on Oct. 3.

After Gowen's guilty plea yesterday, Justice Suzanne Hood accepted a joint sentencing recommendation from the Crown and defence counsel.

"It's a benefit to bring some finality, at least with respect to Kyle Gowen, to the members of the families of the victim," Brown said of the guilty plea.

Gowen waived his right to a preliminary hearing



▶ Kyle Gowen is escorted from Truro provincial court last year. He pleaded guilty to second-degree murder yesterday.

last month to take part in a resolution conference.

Gowen addressed the court yesterday and, according to CBC, said there's nothing he can say to take back what he did to

someone's best friend or son. He also apologized to his younger brother, Steven, and Amanda Greene, both of whom are also charged with killing Jewett.

More guilty pleas to come?

The Crown won't say if the public can expect further guilty pleas this week as the other two



▶ Amanda Greene

people charged with murdering Dillon Blair Jewett return to court.

Steven Shaun Gowen is scheduled to appear on Thursday in Kentville.

Like his older brother, Kyle, the 21-year-old has agreed to take part in a resolution conference.

Amanda Allison Greene, 18, is the third

person facing a murder charge. Greene is back in court on Friday in Shubenacadie.

"Discussions are always ongoing, but it wouldn't really be appropriate for me to comment on any matters that are still before the courts," Crown attorney Alison Brown said. ● PHILIP CROUCHER

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Province's Liberals lose support: Poll

► Tories make gains at expense of Liberals ► Thirteen per cent drop by Liberals looks to be influenced by federal election: CRA pollster



ALEX
BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

The governing NDP and the third-place Progressive Conservatives have benefited

47

Satisfaction with the performance of the government also increased, with 47 per cent of respondents saying they were completely or mostly satisfied.

from a sharp drop-off in Liberal support, according to polling numbers released yesterday by Corporate Research Associates (CRA).

Support for the NDP rose from 34 to 42 per cent of decided voters, while the PCs jumped from 26 to 31 per cent — the first time the Tories have broken the 30 per cent mark in a year. After pulling ahead of the NDP in the last CRA poll, the Liberals dropped from 35 to 22 per cent.

Just over 40 per cent of respondents answered they were undecided, didn't know or refused to answer.

"It will be much more interesting to see if (the drop in Liberal support) is a trend or a blip,"

POLLSTER DON MILLS

"I think the big influence is probably the federal election, where we've actually seen support for the Liberals across the (Atlantic) region tank a little bit," said the CRA's Don Mills.

"It could have everything to do with the federal election and not that much to

do with what's happened locally."

Premier Darrell Dexter's personal popularity rebounded, placing first among preferred leaders of the province at 28 per cent.

Progressive Conservative Leader Jamie Baillie came second with 21 per cent, while the Liberals' Stephen McNeil slipped from the top spot to third place at 20 per cent.

The survey was conducted between May 9 and May 30, interviewing 800 Nova Scotians of voting age. It has a margin of error of 3.5 per cent.

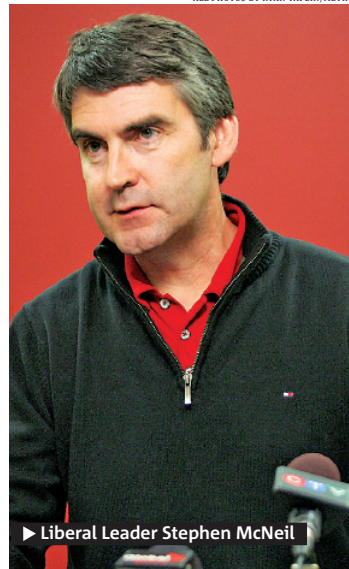
ALL PHOTOS BY RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



► Premier Darrell Dexter



► Progressive Conservative Leader Jamie Baillie



► Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil

ENERGY RETROFIT

Province pledges \$10M to greenify buildings

The Nova Scotia government is intending to spend \$10 million to make its buildings more energy efficient.

The province says it

has completed a number of assessments and is reviewing up to 200 potential sites.

Work is expected to begin this summer.

Energy retrofits could include energy-efficient heating, lighting and air-conditioning equipment.

Other building improvements could include measures like adding insulation and new windows.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bridgetown to get new council

October election

► The government has also said elections will be held during the regular voting period in October 2012.

The province says it will name a new council today for Bridgetown, where the old council quit over the municipality's financial woes.

Shawn Fuller, a spokesman for the premier, says the new council will have three members.

John MacDonell, the municipal relations minister, has scheduled a news conference in the community for today.

The province ordered a forensic audit of the books

after all seven members of council quit last week.

The council members said they resigned en masse because of undisclosed financial problems, and the RCMP has launched an investigation into a possible theft. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police show new most wanted list

Halifax Regional Police has issued a new outstanding-warrant wanted list.

The list of 10 includes eight men and two women, and the charges range from assault and carrying a concealed weapon to uttering death threats and failing to show up for court. ● METRO

Woman bolts attempted robbery

Police are searching for a man after an attempted robbery in Fairview yesterday. A woman said she was entering her residence when a man approached her and demanded money. She said she ran into her home after he pointed something at her. ● METRO

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011

Arcade Fire sets Dartmouth date



ALEX BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

Montreal's Arcade Fire will play Alderney Landing in Dartmouth two days before opening for U2 in Moncton.

The Grammy-winning indie rock band made the announcement on Twitter yesterday afternoon. The show for July 28 had been rumoured off-and-on for weeks.

Local promoter Wayne Mason, who isn't involved in the show, called the announcement a "coup for Halifax."

"People will fly in for this. I think they've only got one or two other Canadian dates," said Mason.

Arcade Fire were nomi-



RICK DIAMOND/GETTY IMAGES

► Arcade Fire

nated for three Grammy Awards for their 2010 album *The Suburbs*.

Of the three, the band took home album of the year, beating out Lady

Tickets

► Tickets for Arcade Fire go on sale Friday through Ticketpro. Advance tickets are \$40.50.

Gaga and Eminem, leaving many mainstream music consumers south of the border scratching their heads.

The band last played Halifax in 2004, to a crowd of 800 people during Halifax Pop Explosion.

Mason said he expects the concert to sell out quickly.

"They did sell out Madison Square Garden (two) nights in a row in New York when they did their record release," noted Mason.

Who gets hurt when we cut education funding?

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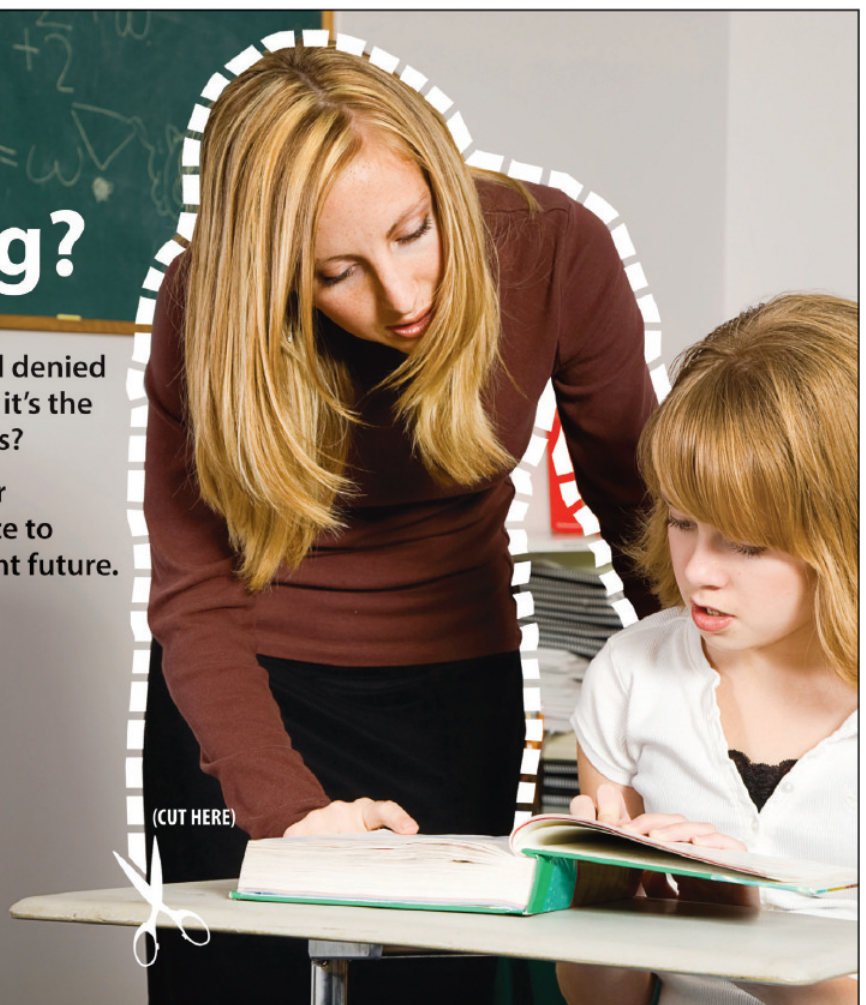
No, the fact is we all lose. We lose opportunities for our children that can never be replaced. We lose our chance to participate in the knowledge economy. We lose a bright future.

We all hurt.



Nova Scotia
Teachers Union

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(CUT HERE)

'We will not kneel,' shouts Gadhafi

► NATO unleashes most punishing airstrikes yet ► Tripoli HQ a target

Moammar Gadhafi stood defiant yesterday in the face of the heaviest and most punishing NATO airstrikes yet.

"We will not kneel!" he shouted on Libyan state television as thunderous daylight attacks sent plumes of smoke billowing above his central Tripoli compound.

The Libyan leader denounced NATO and the rebels challenging his rule. He vowed never to surrender.

Alliance officials have warned for days they were increasing the intensity of their air campaign to oust Gadhafi after more than 40 years in power.

It couldn't be confirmed whether Gadhafi's speech was a live phone call or an audio recording, but it appeared to take state TV by surprise. The sound was hastily adjusted to make it louder.

"We will not surrender:

Where is he?

- Gadhafi was last seen in a brief appearance on state television in late May.
- He has mostly been in hiding since NATO strikes in April targeted one of his homes.
- Libyan officials said one of his sons, Saif al-Arab, and three of his grandchildren were killed in that strike.

We only have one choice — to the end! Death, victory, it does not matter, we are not surrendering!" Gadhafi said.

Highlighting his anger, he called the rebels "bastards."

As he spoke, reporters in Tripoli heard the whooshing sound of low-flying military craft again, followed by several explosions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► A boy holds an assault rifle as people rally yesterday next to Moammar Gadhafi's Bab al-Aziya compound, a regular target of NATO airstrikes.

Outspoken 'gay girl' blogger seized in Syria

A Syrian-American lesbian blogger known for her frank posts about her sexuality and her open criticism of President Bashar Assad's autocratic rule has been detained after weeks on the run in the Syrian capital, her cousin and an activist said yesterday.

Amina Arraf wrote a blog called A Gay Girl in Damascus, a mixture of erotic prose and updates about Syria's uprising.

Her cousin, Rania Ismail, said Arraf was last seen Monday being bundled into a car by three men in civilian clothes.

"We are hoping she is simply in jail and nothing worse has happened to her," Ismail wrote.

She added that Arraf had previously sent her texts to post should something happen to her, but she was holding off in hopes of hearing further

word from her cousin.

The day before she was detained, Arraf wrote on damascusgaygirl.blogspot.com: "I am complex, I am many things; I am an Arab, I am Syrian, I am a woman, I am queer, I am Muslim, I am binational, I am tall, I am too thin; my

sect is Sunni, my clan is Omari, my tribe is Quraysh, my city is Damascus."

Since the uprising against Assad began in mid-March, a government crackdown has left about 1,300 people dead and more than 10,000 de-

tained, according to human rights groups.

Several activists who were briefly detained during the revolt said they were tortured, humiliated and forced to sign pledges to avoid anti-regime activities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Police-reported hate crimes rise: StatsCan

► Race and ethnicity the top motivator ► Increases in hate crimes against all racial groups in 2009

The number of police-reported hate crimes in Canada increased 42 per cent in 2009, according to a new study released yesterday.

Canadian police services reported 1,473 hate crimes in 2009, up by 437 incidents. That came on the heels of a 35 per cent increase in 2008.

Statistics Canada said the number of police-reported hate crimes motivated by race or ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation all rose in 2009, especially hate crimes motivated by religion at 55 per cent.

The number of racially motivated hate crimes was up 35 per cent, it said, while those motivated by sexual orientation went up

54% Statistics Canada said that in 2009, 54 per cent of police-reported hate crimes were motivated by race or ethnicity.

29% Religion was the motivator in 29 per cent of police-reported hate crimes.

13% Sexual orientation was the motivation behind 13 per cent of police-reported hate crimes.

18 per cent.

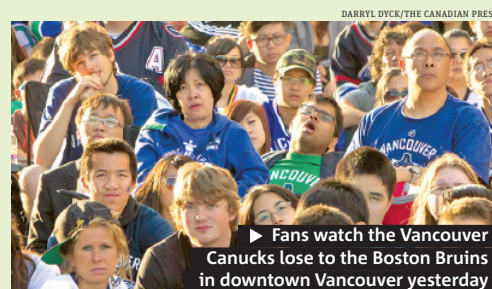
"Violent offences, such as assault, accounted for about four in 10 hate crimes reported by police,"

the study says. "Violent offences were particularly more common among hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation."

More than half (54 per cent) of police-reported hate crimes involved mischief offences, such as graffiti or vandalism, the study says.

"Rates of hate crime tended to be highest among youth and young adults for both victims and accused," it says.

Four cities accounted for most of the increase in police-reported hate crime, led by Ottawa, where the number of incidents increased by 83, Toronto (79), Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo (62) and Montreal (61). **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Fans watch the Vancouver Canucks lose to the Boston Bruins in downtown Vancouver yesterday

FANS' PARTY POOPED IN GAME 3



JEFF HODSON
@METRONews.CA

The 8-1 mauling at the hands of the Bruins Monday let some of the air out of Vancouver's gigantic hubris balloon and brought the city back to Earth (a little bit).

According to police statistics — the universal barometer for good times — about 35,000 people watched the game downtown in glorious weather and at expanded viewing areas to accommodate

HOME ICE ADVANTAGE



the expected crowd.

By comparison, Game 1 saw 40,000 celebrators, despite torrential rain, while 70,000 people hit the street Saturday for Game 2.

Game 2 also leads the way for trouble, with 46 arrests and 891 booze pour-outs.

JEFF HODSON IS MANAGING EDITOR OF METRO VANCOUVER

PM target of hacking attack

It seems a hacker without a cause was the likely culprit behind a false report on the Conservative party website yesterday morning claiming Stephen Harper had been helicoptered to Toronto General Hospital "after an incident at breakfast."

"He was eating breakfast with his kids when a piece of hash-brown lodged in his throat, blocking air from reaching his lungs," the item reported.

The false report was eventually removed from the website, but not before rookie Tory MP Chris Alexander re-tweeted it.

The incident comes at a time when hacking for fun, mischief, malice and profit has been much in evidence around the world.

A person or group called LulzRaft claimed responsibility and plaudits for the Harper hoax on Twitter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Des ateliers seront offerts gratuitement avant l'expérience de travail des participants retenus et viseront la préparation au marché du travail. Les ateliers, d'une durée totale de **18 semaines**, incluront entre autres:

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Français écrit au travail (2 semaines)

Anglais au travail (6 semaines)

Le développement du CV

La recherche d'emploi

La préparation à l'entrevue

Suite aux ateliers, les participants auront la possibilité de participer à une expérience en milieu de travail rémunérée, d'une durée de 12 semaines. **Notez** que le projet ne garantit pas une expérience de travail à chaque participant. Les expériences de travail vont dépendre des qualifications professionnelles des participants et de la disponibilité des emplois. Le projet va appuyer les participants dans leur recherche d'une expérience de travail.

Pour vous inscrire ou pour plus d'information: Prière de communiquer avec la coordonnatrice du projet. Elle se fera un plaisir de vous donner plus de renseignements à ce sujet.

Sonia Losier
Coordonnatrice du projet
Université Sainte-Anne, Campus de Halifax
1589, rue Walnut
Halifax, N.-É., B3H 3S1
(902)424-8979 ou (902)424-2630
sonia.losier@usainteanne.ca



Financé en vertu de l'Entente Canada - Nouvelle-Écosse relative au marché du travail

Wrongly convicted woman freed

► Becomes latest person to walk after having been convicted, in part, by Charles Smith's testimony

Shortly after Tammy Marquardt was sent to prison in 1995 in the death of her two-year-old son, she had the word "freedom" tattooed on her arm.

But it wasn't until yesterday that she could truly say she was free.

The Court of Appeal for Ontario quashed Marquardt's second-degree murder conviction earlier this year, calling her a victim of a miscarriage of justice and ordering a new trial. But rather than proceed with a new trial yesterday, the Crown withdrew the charge because of how much time had passed and the "flawed" evidence of the now notorious former



► Tammy Marquardt with a photo of her son, Kenneth.

pathologist Charles Smith. Ontario Superior Court Judge Michael Brown said it's tragic that it took so long to uncover Smith's

mistakes and conveyed to her his "deepest regret."

Smith, recently stripped of his medical licence for professional misconduct and incompetence, testified in her case that Kenneth was strangled or suffocated.

Other experts have since denounced Smith's findings, concluding Kenneth's cause of death could not be determined, though there is strong evidence the boy was epileptic and could have died from a seizure.

"Honestly, I never thought I would see this day," Marquardt said. She was convicted in 1995 and spent 14 years in prison before being granted bail in 2009. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Police. Blockade



► South Korean policemen stand at a blockade set up to keep back college students during a student rally to urge the government to lower tuition for them in Seoul yesterday.

AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students call for halved tuition

The student councils of four universities in Seoul vowed yesterday to go on a joint one-day strike later this week to call for halved tuition, which President Lee Myung-bak had promised during his election campaign.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT/FACEBOOK.COM



► Stanley

PM names cat

Stephen Harper's new cat now has a name: Stanley.

A Facebook poll had asked people to vote on a

name for the Prime Minister's grey tabby. Stanley won easily over runner-up Smokie. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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10

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011



► Canada Post vehicles sit idle outside a sorting depot in Montreal. Scenes such as this may take place across the country if there's a national walkout.

No mail mess — yet

► Union puts off national walkout, local strikes go on

Postal workers are considering an escalation of their current round of rotating strikes but their union is still not waging a full-blown national walkout.

Union leaders decided late yesterday that workers in Calgary and Edmonton will be off the job today, in the sixth day of rotating strikes.

About 1,000 postal workers were on strike yesterday in Moncton, N.B., and Victoria and ear-

lier strikes were held in Winnipeg, Hamilton and Montreal.

A spokesperson for the Canadian Union of Postal Workers said escalation was discussed but CUPW will continue the less disruptive localized strikes for now.

Canada Post said the strikes have already had a severe impact on its business, dropping mail volumes as much as 50 per cent since they began.

"This decline in volume comes at a time when the company is already struggling to address significant business challenges," the corporation said in a statement.

"Canada Post does not understand why the Canadian Union of Postal Workers would willingly damage the business with strike action when the company has put a strong offer on the table."

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Tearful, but won't resign

► Congressman says lewd Twitter pic wasn't illegal and he will submit to inquiry ► House Democrats express disappointment and embarrassment ► Reflects erosion of support for the 46-year-old New York congressman

A prominent Democratic lawmaker's once promising career was in danger yesterday after he acknowledged sending a lewd photo to a woman over Twitter and then lying repeatedly to protect himself.

Congressman Anthony Weiner has refused to resign even as house Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi

formally requested an ethics investigation.

The National Republican Congressional Committee seized on the scandal as a 2012 campaign issue, issuing news releases calling on more than a dozen house Democrats to return campaign contributions from Weiner.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not sure of ages

► Weiner acknowledged that he had engaged in inappropriate contact with six women over the course of three years through social-networking sites like Twitter and Facebook and occasionally over the phone.

► He said he had never met or had a physical relationship with any of the women and was not even sure of their ages.
► Weiner said he never had sex outside of his marriage.
► Last July, Weiner married Huma Abedin, a top aide to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.



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Nintendo unveils new Wii

- ▶ Will the Japanese giant's new Wii U revolutionize gaming?
- ▶ Controller resembles a mobile device and can be used as a shield

Nintendo introduced its new game console, the Wii U, at the Electronic Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles, Calif., yesterday.

Its distinguishing feature is a unique controller, which resembles a tablet computer. Users can play games on the TV, on the controller, or both.

"It's a new structure for home entertainment," Reggie Fils-Aime, president and COO of the company's North American division, told the crowd.

Although the controller resembles a mobile device

— and the Wii U itself is Internet ready — Fils-Aime cautioned that, "it was not designed to be a portable gaming machine, even though it shares some characteristics. The images displayed on the new controller are generated only by Wii U."

"Nintendo needed to differentiate themselves from their competition one more time, and they're very far out of the box with this new controller," Chris Kohler, gaming editor of Wired.com, told Metro.

Fils-Aime displayed footage of New Super Mario Bros. Me and Lego City Stories. Other titles include Batman: Arkham City, a new Assassin's Creed and EA Sports.

The new product is key to Nintendo's future. Although the original Wii has sold 86.7 million units worldwide (compared to 54 million for Xbox and 50.6 million for Playstation 3), sales have lagged recently, with a reported 29 per cent decline in revenue.

● METRO WORLD NEWS

Wii vs. Wii U

What's the difference between the old and new systems?

▶ **The controller.** Wii U's controller is rectangular and has a touch screen, speaker and camera compared to the screen-free baton of the Wii.

▶ **More mature games.** There's more bloodshed in space, sports and warrior games. Compare that to the family-friendly Wii Fit.



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RIM connects with Scoreloop

BlackBerry maker Research in Motion has acquired German social game developer Scoreloop in a bid to boost development of social and collaborative gaming applications.

RIM says Scoreloop will help its developer community "take gaming to a new level of social integration."

Munich-based Scoreloop has developed a gaming ecosystem aimed at building communities designed to generate revenue from mobile games.

Its products allow pro-

grammers to build connections from games to social media through virtual currencies, global leaderboards and product promotions.

RIM, based in Waterloo, Ont., has had a stiff fight from technology giant Apple, whose hugely popular iPad is in direct competition with RIM's less lauded PlayBook tablet.

Apple announced iMessage for the iPhone, iPod touch and iPad, which mimics the popular BlackBerry Messenger program.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ The view from a condo in Vancouver beside Stanley Park with a view of English Bay, the park and downtown.

Vancouver housing costs could plummet: Report

A new report suggests sky-high housing prices in Vancouver could fall more than 21 per cent if foreign investment ebbs or interest rates climb.

The report from BMO Economics says overpriced homes in some Canadian cities, along with elevated household debt, suggest the real estate market is vulnerable to a correction — espe-

cially in Vancouver.

It says past housing corrections saw Vancouver home values fall an average of 21 per cent. Prices are even higher today, averaging \$815,000 in April, making the market even more susceptible.

The report says housing costs in Vancouver now eat up 11.2 times of median family income. The Cana-

an average is 5.1 times median family income — a historically high level as average Canadian home prices have more than doubled in the past 10 years.

BMO says current prices suggest that even a modest increase in interest rates will slow the market in coming years. Some triggers that could set off a broader collapse include a

rapid rise in interest rates, a sharp increase in unemployment or a slowing of foreign investment.

High home prices in Toronto also mean the country's biggest city is likely poised for softer prices in the near term, fuelled by a rising supply of condos that could soon outstrip demand, leaving a glut on the market. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sales. Boost

▶ Alan Mulally, president and CEO of the Ford Motor Company, poses in a new Ford Mustang outside the New York Stock Exchange yesterday.

RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Asia growth to boost Ford sales

Ford Motor Co. said yesterday it wants to expand its global sales by 50 per cent by the middle of this decade, mostly through growth in Asia.

Homburg takeover pitched

▶ Dutch regulators order for removal of shareholder

Homburg Invest Inc. announced yesterday that it has received a revised non-binding takeover proposal from controlling shareholder Richard Homburg to take the

company private.

Homburg, which currently owns about 46.2 per cent of the outstanding shares of the Halifax-based property company, has offered \$3.25 per

Class A and Class B share outstanding. The offer values the owner and operator of residential and commercial real estate properties at about \$63.3 million. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Plane maker makes \$186M CSeries sale

Bombardier will sell three CSeries aircraft to an unidentified airline for \$186 million US. The customer has options for three more planes.

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El Salvador.....9.9 ¢/min	Philippines.....11.9 ¢/min	Vietnam.....4.9 ¢/min
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METRO



Vestigial: (vēstij'ēəl): Relating to a body part that has become small and lost its use because of evolutionary change.

For example, Canada Post.

In case you haven't heard, there's a strike going on at the post office. It's a nice, polite, post-modern rotating strike that, so far, has touched lightly on smaller cities such as Victoria and Hamilton, but the posties could hit the bricks across the board and most of us would only notice a slight reduction in the amount of junk mail cluttering our mailboxes.

Snail mail is one of those vestiges, like the appendix, that is hanging around (literally, in the case of the appendix) but has an increasingly obscure purpose.

Unless you're one of those vestigial anachronisms who likes to pay bills by mail and fondle your paycheque for a few minutes before you sacrifice it to

hungry creditors, you probably pay your bills on the Internet, get your pay via direct deposit and send emails to your relatives in Parry Sound, Ont.

Even snail-mail Christmas cards are giving way to e-cards, which you can pick up on your laptop, iPad, PlayBook, smartphone, desktop, etc. Of course, you can't mount them on the mantel, but interior decorators everywhere agree that's a good thing.

Snail mail has decreased by 17 per cent since 2006, says Canada Post, and, frankly, it's surprising the drop isn't greater. Must be all those vital fast-food coupons.

So what is the union thinking? Why remind us that Canada Post employees, with no advanced educational requirements or experience, start at \$24 per hour with three weeks' holidays, retire with full pension at 55, and can bank sick days (what's a sick day?), for being the workplace equivalent of the appendix?

The sick-day banking thing is particularly interesting. You could argue that sick days are a humane mechanism, but why should you get to keep them when you're not sick? And turn them in for cash? At taxpayer expense?

The sad truth is, if Canada Post had an appendectomy tomorrow, no one, except for those 50,000 people with nice jobs, would really suffer. It might take a couple of weeks to learn how to send money by email, pay Canada Revenue online, and transfer your holiday greetings to Facebook, but there is nothing that posties do that can't be duplicated online or by private companies.

Apparently, postal Armageddon is not arriving fast enough for the union, so as it teeters on the brink of irrelevance, it has decided to go on strike, finish itself off, and leave no forwarding address.

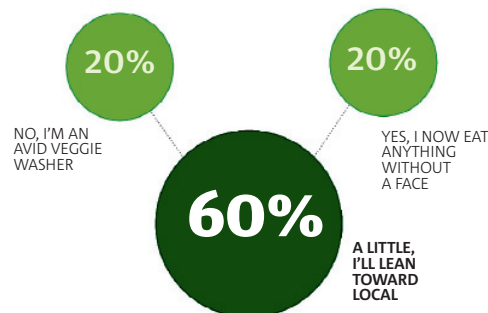
Return to sender. Just sayin'.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsayin



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Has the E. coli outbreak in Europe changed how you shop for produce?



Local tweets



► @Waye Mason: Dear #Halifax council — senior

staff failed you, so you need to take charge and review the situation, not hand it back to senior staff.

► @SmoggyRandall: I hope someone loses their job over this concert scandal. #thieves #halifax

► @keysley: Arcade Fire. Halifax. July 28. Now there is no reason to go to U2 in Moncton

► @firecatkitty: I will be able to hear Arcade Fire from my house. This calls for a

house party. I'll invite @discoelitist He loves Dartmouth!

► @miggitymel: Arcade Fire in Halifax!!!! Yay!!!!

► @derrekbn: Who's Arcade Fire?

► @shannonwc: Dinner at The Bicycle Thief on the waterfront with some of my dearests. Followed by drinks at Obladee, a new wine bar in town. #Halifax

► @KeltyDruet: Average home price in HRM is around 260K, up from 250K in 2010. #growth #halifax

► @that3dguy: Death of the BlackBerry, #iMessage ftw.

Worth mentioning

ROME. Global food prices fell slightly in May, but they will remain "at stubbornly high levels" for months to come, a UN agency said yesterday.

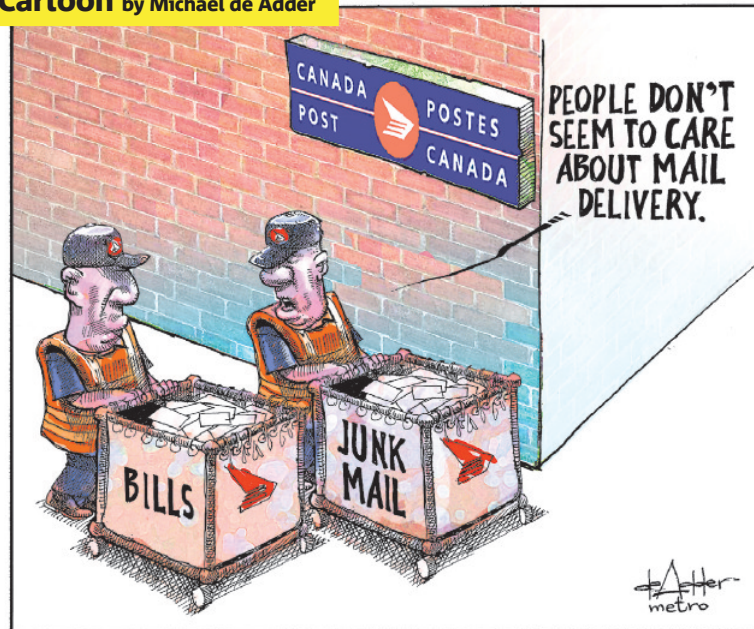
The Food and Agriculture Organization said high and volatile prices can be expected the rest of this year and into 2012, citing a decline in food stockpiles and modest production increases for most of the crops.

Food prices dropped one per cent in May compared to the previous month, but remain 37 per cent above May 2010, according to a price index released by the agency. It said lower cereal and sugar prices led to the decrease in the May index, offsetting increases in meat and dairy prices.

The index hit an all-time high in February, raising fears of a repeat of the food crisis of 2007-08, when high prices led to violence and political tensions in many parts of the world. Prices in March decreased, though experts warn they remain far too high for many poor communities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cartoon by Michael de Adder



WEIRD NEWS

No sequel for this sheep named Shrek

New Zealanders were mourning the loss of the country's most famous sheep yesterday, a shaggy national icon named Shrek who was renowned for avoiding being shorn for years.

Shrek captured the public's imagination in 2004 after he evaded the annual shearing roundups for the previous seven years by hiding in caves on his farm on the South



► Shrek

Island. When finally found, he was clad in an astonishing 27 kilograms of wool.

That's about five times a typical annual shearing from Shrek's breed, the Merino sheep, prized for some of the softest wool. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Lady Antebellum not a 'one-trick pony'

► Country trio wants to move on from the crazy success of their single *Need You Now*
► Next topic: Lady A reveals Sept. 13 release date for their new album, *Own the Night*

Now that *Need You Now* has changed their lives, the members of Lady Antebellum are ready to change the subject.

The country trio will release their follow-up to that Grammy-winning album on Sept. 13.

Own the Night turns the page on a notable chapter in the story of Hillary Scott, Dave Haywood and Charles Kelley's rise from promising country up-and-comers to one of the most successful crossover acts in music history. It's time to move on.

"We don't want anyone to think we're a one-trick pony," Kelley said in a phone interview with The Associated Press from Los Angeles. "That's our goal, to say, 'Hey, guys, we've got more coming.'"

Need You Now was the top-selling country album of 2010 with three million copies sold, and the title track was the top-selling digital download.

Fans downloaded the song about an ill-advised and drunken late-night call to an old flame more than 3.1 million times last year.

It was the rare country song that resonated across the spectrum of listeners,



► Thrown into the spotlight: *Need You Now* was the top-selling country album of 2010 with three million copies sold, and the title track was the top-selling digital download.

"I think for us we're just ready to have new music out there and have the conversation shift toward something different."

CHARLES KELLEY OF LADY ANTEBELLUM, ON THE GROUP'S HIT SONG NEED YOU NOW

rising to No. 2 on Billboard's pop music chart. The song netted most

of the major country awards, and Lady A won a leading five Grammys, including song of the year.

The album produced three multiweek No. 1s on the country chart and pushed the trio into headliner territory on the road, where they spent much of 2010 after the January release of the album turned everything upside down.

"I think we'd be lying if we didn't say it puts that

little added pressure on us for this record," Kelley said.

"I think for us we're just ready to have new music out there and have the conversation shift toward something different. My biggest fear is having the conversation keep being about a song that's two or three years old. I feel as artists and musicians we're ready to move on to the next chapter."

Movin' on

Lady A are eager to spin the conversation forward to the May 2 release of their new single, *Just a Kiss*, and fans showed they're receptive.

- The single debuted at No. 7 on the Hot 100, a record for a country group.
- The song is a classic example of the trio's strengths with Kelley and Scott harmonizing over a slow-burning track about simple emotions that most people can connect with.
- The trio now has a recognizable sound that will be featured on *Own the Night*, Kelley said.
- Much of the writing was done on tour buses with the trio inviting songwriters to accompany them for a week at a time.
- "There's a lot of songs I think that have a lot of nostalgia to them," Kelley said. "I think when you're out there on the road and you're so busy, you tend to get a little more introspective and you start thinking about what road led you where you are. So there's a lot of songs looking back at childhood or old love or whatever it may be."

2

scene

Scene in brief



Space shuttle Endeavour commander Mark Kelly delivered an out-of-this-world message to a U2 concert after Bono dedicated a song to Kelly's wife, Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. Kelly appeared on a video board from the International Space Station and said "Tell my wife I love her very much."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Patti LaBelle, Steve Harvey to be honoured at the BET Awards, where Chris Brown is to perform. Scan code for story.

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HOLLYWOOD CASHES IN ON KID LIT

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According to Wikipedia, books written specifically for children have existed since the 17th century.

Some of those books and stories have endured — Charles Perrault's Little Red Riding Hood, Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella — some have not — remember the 1658 book *Orbis Pictus* in Bohemia? — but stories for kids remain among the top sellers at bookstores and online.

Hollywood has been paying attention. As far back as 1910 *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* graced the silent screen and this summer, 101 years later, the parade of movies adapted from children's books shows no sign of slowing.

Next week Jim Carrey brings the Richard and Florence Atwater book *Mr. Popper's Penguins* to life and this weekend Heather Graham stars in an adaptation of Megan McDonald's *Judy Moody* and the *Not Bummer Summer*.

In the world of kid lit the name Dr. Seuss looms larger than most. His books are classics; unfortunately the movies made from his work tend not to be.

Although Theodor

Geisel (the good doctor's real name) had great success on the small screen with animated specials like *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, he was reluctant to allow his creations to be turned into films.

Two uneven adaptations — Ron Howard's

Stole Christmas and Mike Myers as *The Cat in the Hat* — so annoyed the writer's widow Audrey that she vowed to never again allow live-action versions of her husband's books.

Apparently animation adaptations are OK, and

Carell and Carol Burnett earned good reviews and broke the Dr. Seuss silver screen curse.

One writer whose work seemed made to entertain kids at movie theatres was Roald Dahl. From *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* (later



► Roald Dahl's books seem made to entertain kids at movie theatres. Johnny Depp wowed as Willy Wonka in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

Mr. Fox to *The BFG* (Big Friendly Giant), his stories have easily adapted to live-action, stop-motion or traditional animation treatments.

Of course not all movies that sound like adaptations of children's books are the real deal. Think twice before you rent *The Woodsman*.

The title may sound reminiscent of *Little Red Riding Hood*, but it's a dark drama about decidedly non-kid-friendly events and although *Whoever Slew Auntie Roo?* is based on *Hansel and Gretel* be careful, it's

"Hollywood has been paying attention. As far back as 1910 *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* graced the silent screen and this summer, 101 years later the parade of movies adapted from children's books shows no sign of slowing."

the stuff of nightmares for little ones.

Graham gets a little goofy

► Playing the 'wacky aunt' wasn't difficult for star who loves kids



NED
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For Heather Graham, taking on the role of oddball Aunt Opal, a guerilla artist and world traveller, in *Judy Moody* and the *Not Bummer Summer*, was something of a no-brainer, since Graham and Opal tend to

view the world in a similar fashion. "I've definitely done that. And I've definitely had the philosophy of how do I live my life as a work of art? Like, how do I get the most joy and pleasure out of every day and just appreciate everything?" Graham says.

Life philosophies aside,

Graham was just excited to get into Aunt Opal's eclectic clothes — many of which made their way home with her.

"The wardrobe designer was so amazing — I loved her," Graham says. "Everything she had, I just felt like I was going crazy, like, 'I want this so bad when the

movie's over."

One of the bonuses for Graham of taking on that kind of role was immersing herself in the world of her young co-stars.

"You're not thinking and worrying about adult things, you're just really in the moment and having fun."



► Opal (Heather Graham) and Judy (Jordana Beatty) star in the upcoming release, *Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer*.

SUZANNE TENNER

Sharon's tough love

Family Guy gets its own comic book

► Says she's ready to speak up when America hasn't Got Talent



IAN JOHNSTON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Watch out jugglers and fire-eaters. Judge Sharon Osbourne plans on being a lot tougher on this season of America's Got Talent.

"I'm definitely harder than I've been in previous years," says Osbourne, still best known as the no-nonsense matriarch on MTV's ground-breaking celebrity reality series The Osbournes.

"You don't want to destroy someone's dream. On the other hand, you don't want to give false hope. I'm comfortable in that position of being a little more judgemental; making it more about the talent and not someone's life story."

In a TV world packed with amateur talent competitions, America's Got Talent stands out as something of a throwback to the days of variety shows. Unlike current series like American Idol, AGT offers up all forms of entertainment —

comics, dancers, ventriloquists, geriatric rappers. You name

it, America's Got Talent has it.

"The thing I love about it — it's not just about the singing. Which can get kind of boring," says Osbourne.

"On (America's Got Talent), the element of surprise is still there. You never know what someone is going to do."

Osbourne always gives the appearance of being in total control — an unstoppable, one-woman media juggernaut with two TV series on the air and new opportunities emerging every day. But, according to Osbourne, it's all an illusion.

"Oh yes. I think I can handle it (her schedule)," she laughs. "But I mess up a lot of plans all the time. I will have to re-examine my schedule for the next year."

Osbourne cautions that the instant fame associated with reality shows isn't necessarily the answer to lasting success.

"It's all about the talent," Osbourne cautions. "With a reality show, you might get there quicker, but it doesn't last long. You can make it without a sex tape or being on a reality show."

America's Got Talent airs Tuesdays and Wednesdays on CityTV.

Steve White, editor of the upcoming Family Guy comic book, is keenly aware of the franchise's history of drawing laughs and making viewers cringe.

That's why he says the new series, published by Titan Comics and debuting July 27 in comic book shops and on newsstands,

will not only uphold the TV tradition of the Emmy-nominated animated show but delve deeper into the characters and comedy of Peter Griffin, his family and friends. "The Family Guy universe is an amazing wellspring of ideas to plunder. It's given us a lot of latitude to develop stories

ranging from one-page gag strips to more extended full-length scripts and pretty much everything in between," he told The Associated Press recently.

The series will be drawn by S.L. Gallant, whose previous work includes runs on G.I. Joe and Torchwood, and Anthony Williams,

who has drawn for Judge Dredd and Batman.

Unlike a rigid 23-minute block of time, having the stories in print means more plot-twists and concepts, so each issue will, on average, have around three stories — a main story, a short tale and a gag strip.

"We're even looking at recurring one-pagers, but as I said, really, the world is our oyster here," he said.



► Cover of the first Family Guy comic book.

Turning television properties into comic books is often a successful way of bridging the mediums of comics and the small screen, not to mention the big screen, too. Other publishers have done so, including IDW, which puts out comics based on Doctor Who, The Transformers and Ghostbusters.

Family Guy, which debuted on Fox in 1999 and was off the air for a time and returned in 2005, targets everybody and everything in its story lines: Cookie Monster in an asylum battling his cookie addiction; Dick Cheney as a foul-mouthed greeter at Wal-Mart.

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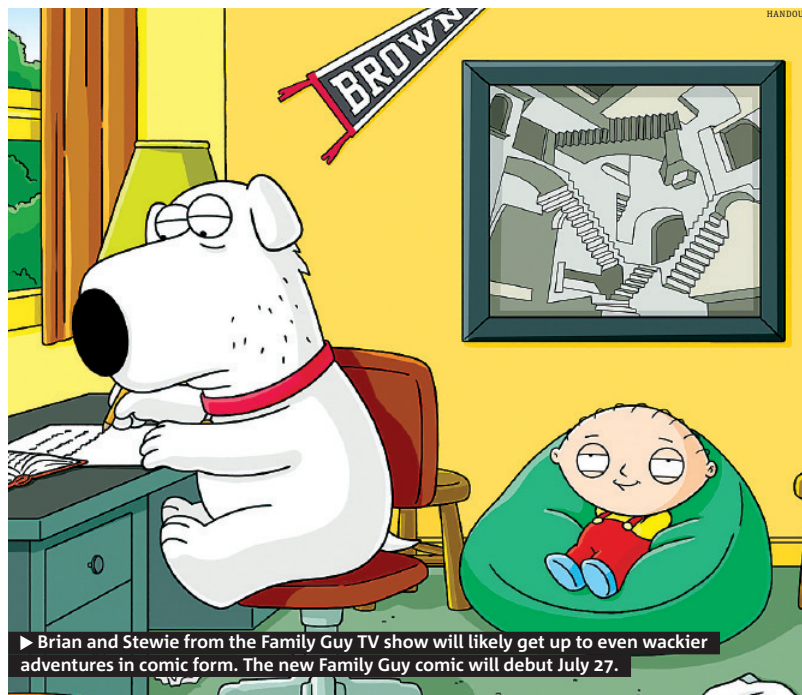
TV picks

Modern Family x 2

COMEDY. It's mostly repeats on TV tonight but at least there's a double shot of Modern Family. In the first episode, Claire tries to slow down a speeding driver. (Citytv)

Kennedy's final journey

DOCUMENTARY. In One Thousand Pictures: RFK's Last Journey, photographer Paul Fusco recounts his experiences as he snapped photos from the train that carried Robert Kennedy's body. (HBO Canada)



► Brian and Stewie from the Family Guy TV show will likely get up to even wackier adventures in comic form. The new Family Guy comic will debut July 27.

Baby shower for Kate Hudson

► Lots of gender-neutral gifts for boy or girl

Kate Hudson is one step closer to becoming a mom again, celebrating with a baby shower at a private home in Malibu recently with guests including Rachel Zoe, Courteney Cox and Jessica Capshaw, according to People magazine.

"[Kate] looked amazing and kept giggling while mingling with friends, nibbling on food and playing games. She seemed to have the best time," a source says of the soiree. With the gender of the baby still a mystery, guests lavished Hudson with "gender-neutral baby items," according to the source.

● METRO



► Kate Hudson

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Cheryl Cole not on X-Factor

Producers for the new U.S. edition of X Factor have made it official, announcing that Cheryl Cole is out as a judge for the reality series.

"Nicole Scherzinger will be replacing Cheryl Cole on the judging panel of The X Factor," a statement from Fox, Fremantle Media and Syco TV reads.

"Nicole has previously joined Simon Cowell as a guest judge on The X Factor for the U.K. version of the show in 2010. Steve Jones will act as sole host of The X Factor."

No official reason was given for Cole's dismissal.

● METRO



► Cameron Diaz

Cameron ignores rumours of split

Cameron Diaz is reportedly laughing off reports that she and Alex Rodriguez have split up, according to Us Weekly. The pair have been acting very much like a couple around L.A. recently, hitting up parties for the MTV Movie Awards and the NBA finals looking "very affectionate," sources say.

As for dealing with reports about her love life, Diaz shrugs it off: "If I want to read gossip, I read about somebody else's life. I can't worry about what other people say," Diaz tells Extra. "It's fine to say whatever you want as long as you actually don't know what's going on in my life." ● METRO

Scarlett, Sean Penn still friends

Though Scarlett Johansson and Sean Penn have put their relationship to rest, they were spotted hanging out together recently backstage at Spike TV's Guys Choice Awards, according to Popeater, though it's apparently no surprise.

"If you remember after Scarlett confirmed her split from Ryan [Reynolds] the two continued to see each other and have dinner together," a friend of the actress says. "Just because you are no longer with someone doesn't mean you



► Scarlett Johansson

stop caring about them ● METRO

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Enjoy the sights, sounds of Saskatoon

► Head to Canada's heartland this summer and taste the fruits of their labour ► The Saskatoon berry is a local favourite in many forms

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA



Who knew little old unassuming Saskatoon could be so colourful

and fun? Especially when there doesn't happen to be any snow on the ground.

Part of that colour, comes every year from the rich red juice of the fabled Saskatoon berry, which is a long time favourite of locals, and quickly becoming a tourist attraction for us out-of-towners.

After arriving at the famous "Berry Barn" just a few miles south of the city, I was hit with the undeniable fact that these tasty little berries are becoming a downright industry. We're talking pies, cakes, preserves, chocolates, ciders, teas and

Activities

Other cool things to do in Saskatoon.

► **Walk the Meewasin Valley Trail:** Stroll along the banks of the South Saskatchewan River, which winds through the center of the city. In the winter you can even skate or snowshoe.

► **Wanuskewin Heritage Park:** This national historic site features an interactive museum on local native culture. The gateway to hundreds of acres of scenic trails, prairie landscape and archeological sites.

juices, all made from these berries. I even headed out back to harvest a few handfuls from the touristy berry patch orchard. Inside the Berry Barn gift shop, tourists were snatching up Saskatoon Berry plush dolls. Hey, why not exploit what you have! With breathtaking views of the South



► A beautiful red sky in Saskatchewan.

FLICKR: BRUCE GUENTER

Saskatchewan River, and a great little country-style dining room, the "Barn" is a great way to wile away a prairie afternoon.

Full of berries, and ready for some high speed adventure, I decided it was time to move on to the new Auto Clearing Motor Speedway, north of the city. Saskatoon has one of the best racing facilities in the country, and I have to say there is nothing like the excitement of a good stock car event in a city that appreciates it.

With a grandstand seating only 3,000, you can get an up close feel for what racing is all about, fast and



► The South Saskatchewan River in Saskatoon.

FLICKR: ANNKRISZT

furious style. That whole baron prairie stereotype of Saskatoon was quickly erased for me, soon after

arriving in this vibrant city. Saskatoon berries, and stock cars ... what more do you need?

3

life

Travel in brief

Bibliophiles who love to travel have a new resource — the website literarytourist.com, launched by an Ottawa-based journalist who says he wants to help used bookstores stay in business. Nigel Beale calls the website a "one-stop shop for literary tourists," with listings for 7,000 to 8,000 stores and destinations across North America. Places in other countries will be added later.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Replica of Elvis Presley's favourite coaster, Zippin' Pippin, popular in Green Bay. Scan code for story.

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Musical festival on the high seas

- Seven-day cruise is a music geek's Garden of Eden
- A wide variety of concerts offered every day at sea

Cayamo concerts are different in several ways. They start on time. They last only an hour. And the speakers hanging from the ceiling tend to sway.

Sometimes the musicians do, too.

"Usually I go where I want on stage," John Prine said. "But here I go where the ship takes me."

Cayamo is an annual music festival at sea featuring performers of Prine's ilk — singer-songwriters with acoustic guitars and devoted fans. There are bands, too, and amplifiers, and all of the attractions that go with any other Caribbean trip. That means sunshine, shore excursions, a laid-back vibe and too much food.

Mostly the 2,000 passengers come for music. That

If you go ...

► **Cayamo Cruise.** Seven-day cruise from Miami on the Norwegian Pearl to the Caribbean, Feb. 5-12. All cabins have been booked but a waiting list is available for rooms that open up due to cancellations. cayamo.com. Other niche and genre music cruises listed under "Events" at sixthman.net.

was the case in February during Cayamo 2011 aboard the Norwegian Pearl. It was a seven-day excursion — six days of concerts and one day listening to musicians tune. Or so it seemed.

Main attractions included Prine, Brandi Carlile, the Indigo Girls, Steve Ear-

le, Patty Griffin, Richard Thompson, Loudon Wainwright III and Buddy Miller. But one of the delights was discovering lesser-known acts such as Scott Miller, Chuck Cannon and Roddie Romero and the Hub City All-Stars.

A partial lineup for February 2012 includes Prine, Thompson, Wainwright, Lyle Lovett, John Hiatt and Keb' Mo'.

Acts perform in half a dozen cosy venues, the largest seating about 800 people. During the February trip, shows began in the afternoon, and music continued into the wee hours each night. One jam session in the atrium lasted until 2 a.m. and involved more than a dozen musicians from five bands.

For the many music



► The Cayamo Cruise 2011 aboard the Norwegian Pearl cruise ship. Cayamo is an annual music festival at sea. Acts perform in half a dozen cosy venues, the largest seating about 800 people.

geeks on board, it was like being a spectator at a golf or tennis tournament. You'd study the schedule at the beginning of day and plan where you wanted to be when, who you were willing to miss and who you absolutely had to see.

Prices for the February cruise start at \$1,235 per person for double occupancy interior cabins, so Jazz Fest or Bonnaroo would indeed be cheaper. But Cayamo has comfy chairs and no Port-O-Lets, and you're always within

walking distance of the swimming pool, a dining room and your bed.

"It's an experience that can't be replicated on land," said Carolyn Spencer Brown, editor of CruiseCritic.com.

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New York City Air + 3 Nights from **\$629**
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Las Vegas Air + 4 Nights from **\$649**
+ taxes & fees \$188
INCLUDES accom on the strip. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from \$13 per night. **ADD** helicopter tour from \$172.

Chicago Air + 3 Nights from **\$699**
+ taxes & fees \$123
INCLUDES central accom near Grant Park and Lake Michigan. **UPGRADE** to 4.5-star accom from \$50 per night.

Honolulu Air + 7 Nights from **\$1129**
+ taxes & fees \$129
INCLUDES central accom 2 blocks from the beach. **ADD** Paradise Cove Luau from \$92.

Canada

Montreal Air + 3 Nights
from **\$519**
+ taxes & fees \$165
INCLUDES accom near sights and attractions. **UPGRADE** to 4-star from \$15 per night. **ADD** economy car rental with unlimited mileage from \$37 per day.

Toronto Pride Weekend
Air + 3 Nights from **\$549**
+ taxes & fees \$160

INCLUDES accom central to parade and entertainment. **ADD** economy car rental with unlimited mileage from \$37 per day.

Vancouver Air + 5 Nights from **\$1099**
+ taxes & fees \$206
INCLUDES accom near sights and attractions. **UPGRADE** to 4-star from \$8 per night. **ADD** 4-day economy car rental from \$40 per day.

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Escaping to Northern Thailand

► The south might be popular with sun seekers and clubbers, but there's much to see in the north of Thailand ► Explore jungles, villages and temples in this authentic rural area



AMANDA HYDE
METRO WORLD NEWS

When you think of Thailand, you tend to think of endless white beaches, paradise islands or hedonistic nightclubs, but this country has another side — the jungly, adventurous north.

Once a wild and lawless region, inhabited by drug barons and CIA agents, the province of Chiang Rai has had nearly two decades of sleepy peace, thanks to

the efforts of the late Princess Mother, who educated the locals about growing other crops as an alternative to opium.

It's now opening up to tourism, and a slow stream of holidaymakers is replacing the intrepid backpackers who used to be the only people brave enough to visit.

At the very edge of the country, where Thailand, Myanmar and Laos converge in the swirling brown waters of the Mae Khong

River, Chiang Rai is the perfect place to get to know what rural Thai life is like.

Spend a few days exploring the bottle green, undulating landscape — home to Akha and Yao hilltribes, as well as a couple of rescue centres for elephants shipped in from the streets of Bangkok (book excursions with Akha Hill House; 00 66 88 9997 5505; from \$39 per person).

Then make for the sleepy village of Chiang Saen: it's a charming intro-

duction to everyday Thai life. See the frogs and chickens on sale in the market, ask a teenage boatman to row you along the border, and admire the gigantic Buddha that looks serenely over the water from its perch on the shore.

It's hard to believe now, but this city was once the capital of the powerful Lanna Kingdom. You can pay your respects in the ancient temple, Wat Chedi Luang, on the outskirts of town.

3

THINGS TO TRY OUT IN CHIANG RAI

EAT

Sabun-nga

- For a quick intro to northern Thai food (spicy pork curries), try the cafeteria in the hostel Sabun-nga in Chiang Rai city, which ticks off every regional speciality in its vast buffet (SangKhongNai Soi 6; no phone; buffet \$7).

SHOP

Markets

- Chiang Rai isn't overrun with shops like touristy Chiang Mai to the west, but its Night Bazaar (between the bus station and Phaholyothin Road) is a compact, characterful place to pick up bedspreads and embroidery made by the hilltribes.

STAY

Golden Triangle Resort

- Right on the Mae Khong, with lush gardens, spacious rooms and great views over the water, the four-star Imperial Golden Triangle Resort in Chiang Saen is a bargain compared with similar hotels in the area (from \$55; imperialhotels.com).

Quick tips

- Learn about the region's grizzly past at the Hall of Opium, just outside Chiang Saen. This surprisingly balanced portrayal of the drugs trade includes both opium den recreations and a wall of famous people who became addicted to the drug (00 66 53 784060; \$10).
- You can cross the border into Myanmar on a tour of the Golden Triangle — but don't forget to take your passport.
- There are limited international flights to Chiang Rai airport. It's easier to get a flight to Bangkok and pick up a low-cost flight from there: Air Asia (airasia.com) and Thai Air (thaiair.com) both run flights, from around \$36 each way.

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Brown rice for any time

► These recipes showcase how to use the grain in snacks, appetizers, mains

These brown rice bars are packed with dried fruits, nuts and seeds and bound together with wholesome brown rice and natural nut butter. They're portable, convenient and, best of all, provide the energy you need to keep up with your busy schedule. These bars can also be prepared as cookies.

Preparation:

1 Preheat oven to 190 C (375 F). In a large bowl, beat butters and sugar until light and well combined. Beat in egg and vanilla.

2 In a bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder and cinnamon. Stir into butter mixture until well

combined. Fold in rice, coconut and trail mix.

3 Spread mixture into a parchment-lined 33-by-23-cm (13-by-9-inch) baking dish. Bake in the centre of oven until golden and set, 25 to 30 minutes. Let cool before slicing into bars with a serrated knife.

4 Store in an airtight container for up to 3 days or wrap and freeze for up to 1 month.

ALL RECIPES: THE CANADIAN PRESS/ RICEINFO.COM



► This recipe produces 24 bars.

ALL PHOTOS: THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Ingredients:

- 50 ml (1/4 cup) butter, softened
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) pure nut butter (peanut, cashew, almond) with no additional ingredients
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) vanilla
- 250 ml (1 cup) brown rice flour
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) gluten-free baking powder
- 5 ml (1 tsp) cinnamon
- 500 ml (2 cups) cooked brown rice
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) coconut
- 500 ml (2 cups) favourite trail mix



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Fiesta Layered Salad



Preparation:

1 Cook rice according to package directions. Spread evenly on a baking sheet to cool; fluff with a fork.

2 In a bowl, whisk garlic with lime juice, cumin, salt, pepper, honey and hot sauce. Whisking constantly, gradually pour in oil to combine. Stir a spoonful of the dressing with the avo-

cado. Set aside remaining dressing.

3 In a straight-sided glass bowl or trifle dish, layer red pepper, avocado, black beans, rice, corn, tomato, green onion, cheese and cilantro.

4 Drizzle with remaining dressing just before serving.

Ingredients:

- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) long-grain brown rice
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) lime juice
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) ground cumin
- 4 ml (3/4 tsp) each salt and pepper
- 5 ml (1 tsp) each honey and hot pepper sauce
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) oil
- 1 avocado, peeled and

- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) cubed
- 250 ml (1 cup) chopped red pepper
- 250 ml (1 cup) canned black beans, drained and rinsed
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) each corn kernels and chopped tomato
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) chopped green onion
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) shredded cheddar cheese
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) chopped cilantro

► These Brown Rice Cuban Burgers are a healthy option for your next backyard barbecue ► They're easy to make



► Brown rice burgers are low in fat and high in fibre.

A meatless option for backyard entertaining, these convenient, healthy burgers are flavourful and made with ingredients from all food groups.

Preparation:

1 In saucepan, bring broth and rice to boil over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to low, cover and cook until all liquid absorbed, about 40 minutes. Let cool

2 In skillet, heat 15 ml (1 tbsp) of oil over medium-high heat. Cook red onion until tender. Stir in pepper and mushrooms and cook until tender. Stir in

garlic, cumin, coriander, salt and red pepper flakes and cook 1 min.

3 Scrape onion mix into food processor. Add breadcrumbs, cooked rice, beans, feta and egg. Pulse to combine.

4 Using wet hands, form into 125-ml (1/2-cup) patties. In skillet over medium-low heat, cook in batches using 15 ml (1 tbsp) of oil at a time until golden brown, 6 mins per side. Serve on buns with pickle slices.

Ingredients:

- 500 ml (2 cups) vegetable broth
- 250 ml (1 cup) long-grain brown rice
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) safflower oil
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) each finely diced red onion, red pepper, mushrooms
- 1 clove garlic, minced

- 5 ml (1 tsp) each ground cumin and coriander
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) each coarse salt and red pepper flakes
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) gluten-free seasoned breadcrumbs
- 250 ml (1 cup) canned black beans (drained and rinsed)
- 60 g (2 oz) crumbled feta
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- Dill pickle slices (garnish)

Take a chance on the new kid

STUDENT VOICE

CAROLYN MANN
TALENTEGG.CA

I just finished my third year of a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at the University of British Columbia Okanagan.

I live in a small city and find it difficult to find meaningful work experi-



► Carolyn Mann

that every new hire has the potential for long-term employment if they prove they're valuable.

Students and recent grads have a different view of the world and bring completely different ideas to the table. Allow them to be a part of your team and you'll surely benefit.

My recommendation for a similar situation is to gain the most experience out of the job, no matter the work environment.

Summer internships are short, but you will always be able to leverage the experience you gained for permanent jobs in the future.

When I was searching for a summer position last summer, I applied to everything! Even though I didn't meet all the requirements posted, I explained my ambition and desire to learn, and explained how I could be a valuable addition to the team.

It can never hurt to apply, and eventually there will be some hiring manager out there who will see value beyond any lack of experience.

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ence. I don't know how many times I've heard, "You don't have enough experience," and wanted to scream back, "Well how do you think I am going to get the experience?"

I hope employers will eventually realize how ridiculous this is.

When employers do hire interns and students, though, they should include them in their teams for the long-run.

Nothing is more frustrating than putting in long hours and good ideas, and your employer refuses to see you as a long-term member of the team.

I understand that interns cannot always be long-term employees. However, employers should recognize

What I learned

Key take-aways from Carolyn's experience:

- Even if you're only employed for a summer, show your employer that you are a valuable part of the team by asking for more work, helping other employees with their work, and going above and beyond your boss' expectations on a regular basis.
- Keep your options open by applying to opportunities in a variety of fields – you never know who you will meet or what you'll accomplish. Don't limit yourself to your degree title.

Where Carolyn is now

I work at a small, non-profit organization that allows me to learn a variety of skills, from marketing to accounting. When I applied, they looked beyond my relevant work experience and saw the value in my extra-curricular and volunteer activities.

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4
sports

Quoted



"I waited my whole life to be here. I'm not going to put my head down. It's time to get back to work. Obviously, last night was disappointing for all of us."

CANUCKS GOALIE
ROBERTO LUONGO



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► Miami's LeBron James watches from the floor as Dwyane Wade dunks during the first half last night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heat knocked down in Dallas

Dwyane Wade scored 32 points and Chris Bosh chipped in 24, but it wasn't enough as the Dallas Mavericks gutted out a fourth-quarter victory 86-83 over the Miami Heat to even the NBA final at two games apiece last night. Shawn Marion scored 15 points and Jason Terry added 15 as the Mavericks finally got some secondary scoring help for Dirk Nowitzki, who had 21 in Game 4. LeBron James scored just eight, but had seven assists and nine rebounds in the loss.

Moose pick Erne leaning toward NCAA

► Adviser says it's 'unlikely' talented winger will play in Halifax this fall



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

The Halifax Mooseheads took a risk on Adam Erne, and at least for now, it doesn't look like they'll be rewarded.

Erne, who the Mooseheads selected in the second round (22nd overall) in last Saturday's QMJHL draft, has no intention of leaving the Indiana Ice of the United States Hockey League, or of abandoning his plan to play NCAA hockey at Boston University starting in 2013.

"As much as we appreciate the interest in him, that's the route he's going to be taking at this time," said Erne's adviser, Ritch Winter.

The Mooseheads were aware of Erne's intentions when they drafted him. But since they considered him one of the draft's top-five talents, they decided to go out on a limb.

"We just felt we had enough picks, and (so few) openings on our team,

"He's got a good shot and good hands, he just needs to work on his initial (skating) burst. He should be a hell of a prospect in a couple years."

INDIANA ICE HEAD COACH CHARLIE SKJODT, TO THE HOCKEY NEWS, ON ADAM ERNE.

that it was worth a gamble," said Mooseheads general manager Cam Russell at the draft.

The five-foot-11, 198-pound Erne had 10 goals and eight assists for 18 points in 45 games with Indiana last season as one of the youngest players in the USHL at 15 years old.

Winter said Erne is about to enter into a two-year commitment to attend a private school in Indianapolis and doesn't see his client changing his course in the future.

"I've learned to never say never, but it would be very unlikely at this stage," Winter said.

STANLEY CUP FINAL

Horton and Rome done for series

The Vancouver Canucks will play the remainder of the Stanley Cup final minus defenceman Aaron Rome.

The NHL suspended Rome for four games yesterday for his late hit on Nathan Horton early in Boston's 8-1 Game 3 victory Monday. With three games played in the final, Rome's season is over.

"I take this very seriously," said NHL senior vice-president of hockey operations Mike Murphy. "I wish I wasn't sitting here and I wish

Aaron was playing and I wish Nathan was playing."

Rome was assessed a five-minute interference major and a game misconduct for the hit.

Should the series not go seven games, Rome's suspension will carry over into next season.

Horton will miss the rest of the final after suffering a severe concussion on the hit.

"We have to find a way to rally around it," said Boston forward Milan Lucic. "Everyone has to do a little bit more."

Horton had eight goals and nine assists in the playoffs for Boston, which trails Vancouver 2-1 heading into Game 4 tonight (CBC, 7 p.m.).

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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► Tiger Woods will miss the U.S. Open for the first time since 1994.

Woods will miss U.S. Open

► With an ailing left leg that needs rest, Tiger takes a pass on a major

Tiger Woods pulled out of the U.S. Open yesterday because of lingering issues with his left leg, leaving him uncertain how soon he can resume his pursuit of Jack Nicklaus's record for major titles.

It will be the first time Woods has missed the U.S. Open since 1994, when he had just graduated high school.

"I am extremely disappointed that I won't be playing in the U.S. Open, but it's time for me to listen to my doctors and focus on the future," Woods said on his website. "I was hopeful that I could play, but if I did, I risk further damage to my left leg. My knee and Achilles tendon are not fully healed."

Woods said he hoped to be ready for the AT&T National, which starts June 30 at Aronimink, and the next two majors. Then again, he said two weeks ago he would do everything possible to be ready for the U.S. Open, which is far more significant.

"We're very disappointed that he won't be playing in the National Open," USGA executive director Mike Davis said, whom Woods called yesterday morning. "He certainly brings excitement to the event. He'll be missed, but the U.S. Open will go on. The event is big-



"I'd rather see him come back when he's ready. And if he's not prepared, then he shouldn't come back."

MARK O'MEARA

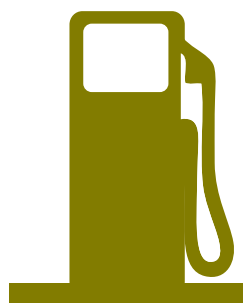
ger than one player, but he certainly will be missed."

The U.S. Open starts June 16 at Congressional, where Woods won the AT&T National two years ago and tied for 19th when the U.S. Open was last played there in 1997.

Woods was replaced by Michael Whitehead, a senior at Rice who was first alternate from the Dallas qualifier. Whitehead had to win a playoff just to get out of the first stage of 18-hole qualifying, and was stunned to get the news.

"They said on the phone that Tiger has withdrawn from the Open," Whitehead said. "So thanks, Tiger. I guess I'm glad he was listening to his doctors."

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NHL FREE AGENCY

Flyers trade for chance to sign Bryzgalov

The Phoenix Coyotes have traded the negotiating rights of free-agent goalie Ilya Bryzgalov to the Philadelphia Flyers for forward Matt Clackson, a third-round draft pick in 2012 and future considerations.

The Coyotes had made Bryzgalov and defence-man Keith Yandle, a restricted free agent, their top priorities this off-season.

Negotiations with Bryzgalov broke down because the Russian goalie wanted to not only

be a top-paid goalie in the NHL, but one of the top-paid players, according to an NHL official who requested anonymity because he wasn't authorized to release the information.

The official also said the Coyotes do not intend to sign Clackson when his contract expires on June 30.

"After several discussions with Ilya and his agent, it became very clear to us that we were not in a position to sign Ilya to a long-term contract," Coyotes general manager Don Maloney said in a statement. "We will now focus our efforts on adding another goaltender to our roster for the upcoming season."

A Vezina Trophy finalist in 2009-10, Bryzgalov

went 36-20-10 with a 2.48 goals-against average and seven shutouts last season, but had some shaky moments as Phoenix was swept from the playoffs by Detroit.

Now Philadelphia will try to strike a deal with the 30-year-old goalie.

"We'll see what we can do," Flyers general manager Paul Holmgren said. "He's certainly not an old goaltender. We feel like he's got a lot of good years left in him ... When you get into a negotiation like this, you're dealing with a salary cap and you try and get a number you can live with."

The Flyers, who didn't have a single shutout last season, were repeatedly frustrated with their goalie situation in the playoffs. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Winnipeg lands GM for its new NHL team

Winnipeg's new NHL franchise has its first general manager.

A league source requesting anonymity said yesterday the yet-unnamed Winnipeg club has hired Kevin Cheveldayoff as its GM. Cheveldayoff will join the Winnipeg squad after serving as the assistant GM of the Chicago Blackhawks.

Scott Brown, a spokesman for True North Sports and Entertainment Limited — which owns the Winnipeg club — declined comment yesterday.

But the source said the NHL team will make the move official today.

Cheveldayoff, 41, a native of Blaine Lake, Sask., has experienced no shortage of hockey success as an executive.

He guided the Chicago Wolves to a pair of Turner Cup titles in the International Hockey League as well as two Calder Cup championships (American Hockey League) before joining the Chicago Blackhawks front office.

He was part of the Chicago club that captured last year's Stanley Cup.

Cheveldayoff was a defenceman selected in the first round, 16th overall, by the New York Islanders in the 1988 NHL entry draft.

He began his career with the AHL's Capital District Islanders, serving as an assistant captain 1991-'93.

He had a similar role with the Salt Lake Golden Eagles in 1993-'94, earning the team's Unsung Hero Award. But he was forced to retire after five pro seasons as a result of a knee injury.

Cheveldayoff's brother, Ken, is a prominent Saskatchewan politician. He is the province's minister of First Nations and Métis relations, minister responsible for northern affairs and minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation.

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All-wheel-drive

Regardless of transmission, all X1s come with BMW's patented xDrive permanent all-wheel-drive setup.

The system splits the torque equally between the front and rear wheels under normal driving conditions, but when necessary can shift 100 per cent of the torque to whichever axle is driving the tires with grip.

Trim level options

To keep the starting price in low-\$40,000 territory, base X1s will be on the stark side, devoid of leather seats, fancy interior/exterior trim and a number of mechanical/safety features.

On the extra-cost sheet is a panoramic glass roof, bigger wheels, heated leather seats, up-level audio/navigation system and a sport steering wheel with paddle shifters for automatic-transmission models. Also offered is an aero body kit that's part of the M sports package.

Engine

Where the X1 makes a really radical departure from the X3 is under the hood.

The sole powerplant is an all-new 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder that puts out 241 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque. That's one horsepower more than the X3's base non-turbo 3.0-litre inline six, but crushes that engine's torque rating of 221 pound-feet. The X1 is also 180 kilograms lighter than the X3, which is good news for acceleration and fuel economy.



► The X1 shares its platform and all-wheel-drive architecture with the Mini Countryman, but the X1 is bigger and, of course, more expensive.

The keys to this Bimmer won't kill your wallet

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONews.ca
WHEELBASE MEDIA

If you've been loitering outside the local BMW dealership, palms and cheeks pressed to glass thinking that was as close as you were ever going to get to owning a shiny new Bimmer, it's time to come inside.

Yes, the X1 has just arrived as a highly efficient, cargo-friendly and perhaps most importantly, wallet-friendly family transporter that also packs standard all-wheel-drive, which of course is perfect for Canadian winters.

The popularity of the X1 is so great around the world right now that there are shortages that will delay the model's arrival in the

U.S. market until late this year.

Somehow, Canadians lucked out.

While a close inspection and a test drive reveals a lot about the vehicle, the reason for its popularity actually requires nothing more than to understand that the X1 is now the least-expensive BMW wagon in the line at \$40,500, slotted below the \$43,900 X3.

It doesn't really look less expensive, though. In fact, the X1 looks a lot like the X3. A side-by-side inspection is really needed to reveal the X1's more car-like profile in addition to a slightly more elongated nose.

For buyers on a budget who are dead set on a BMW wagon, their wait is over. Now come inside.



► The X3 offers nearly double the cargo space of the X1, but at least you can fold the back seat forward to tote longer items.



► The dash is a bit plain, but nicely turned out in any event. Note that leather seats are optional, which should help keep the base price in the low-\$40,000 range.

BMW X1



What you should know about the 2012 BMW X1 xDrive28i:

- **Types:** Four-door, all-wheel-drive compact wagon.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.0-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (241).
- **Transmission:** Six-speed manual; eight-speed automatic (opt.).
- **Market position:** The new X1, along with the existing X3, gives BMW two compact wagons. However, the slightly smaller X1's claim to fame will be its superior fuel economy and, perhaps surprisingly, better performance.
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 9.2/6.4.

5 drive

By comparison

Acura RDX

Base price: \$42,400
Similar to X1 in size and output, but trails in fuel economy.

Audi Q5

Base price: \$43,000
A4-based wagon offers standard turbo I4 plus optional 270-hp V6.

Infiniti EX35

Base price: \$44,200
G37-based wagon features 297-hp V6. Low profile reduces cargo room.

WHEELBASE MEDIA



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Your questions answered: Ford F-150

► From EcoBoost to towing capacity, writer Justin Pritchard answers questions about the 2011 Ford pickup truck



JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

The current F-150 in Ford showrooms isn't entirely new at a glance — though an exciting new engine has recently found its way under the hood.

Answering the call of shoppers after high-efficiency performance, the automaker has recently fitted the F-150 with a sophisticated new EcoBoost V6 engine as an alternative to a thirstier V8.

Truck fans everywhere have questions about the new F-150 EcoBoost, so your writer took your questions from Twitter, as well as in parking lots and traffic lights, and answered the most common.

What is EcoBoost?

EcoBoost is a new line of high-efficiency Ford engines that use turbocharging and direct-injection technology to deliver the performance of a bigger engine with the fuel consumption of a smaller one.

Case in point?

The F-150 EcoBoost uses a 3.5-litre, twin-turbo V6 in place of a larger V8 to deliver on-demand power and fantastic mileage.



TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

► Tired of paying a healthy price to feed your V8 engine at the pump? The 2011 Ford F-150 features an EcoBoost V6 engine.

Is it powerful?

Yes. The boosted six puts out 365 horsepower and 420 pounds feet of torque. That's more than even the F-150's new five-litre V8 — and peak torque is available from just 2,500 RPM, or about 2,000 RPM earlier than a comparable V8.

That translates to fantastic throttle response — as well as a machine that'll

virtually tie even an F-150 with Ford's new 6.2-litre V8 in a drag race.

Will it lay a patch?

Yes. A big, dirty one, if you're so inclined.

Can you hear the turbochargers?

Very, very faintly. In fact, this EcoBoost engine is really quiet and smooth. If you

like the sound effects and rumble of a V8, you won't find them here.

How does it feel towing a sailboat?

The massive low-end torque and six-speed automatic make towing a breeze.

On my watch, the tester pulled about 3,500 lbs of boat and trailer up and over

hills effortlessly at 105 km/h, often without downshifting.

Towing capacity peaks at over 11,000 lbs — depending on the model you choose.

Is it great on fuel?

After about 2,000 kilometres of highway, city and trail driving, as well as a few hundred clicks of sail-

boat hauling over hilly terrain, my observed test-average landed at an impressive 13.9L/100km of regular fuel.

It's no Prius — but this torque beast towing-rig still managed to turn in mileage comparable to large, V6-powered family crossovers.

How's this fancy turbo engine going to stack up when it's 10 years old?

Ford stresses that they put their EcoBoost engine through hell and back to ensure it will perform for the long run.

They also worked with some of the industry's most recognized turbocharger suppliers to ensure durability standards were met.

What F150 variants can I get the EcoBoost engine in?

The EcoBoost V6 is available on the F-150's XL trim level and higher — with an entry model XL 4x2 EcoBoost Regular Cab coming in around \$24,000.

The loaded Platinum tester came in at well beyond double that figure.



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Odyssey minivan still a comfortable ride

► Check last-generation Odyssey for possible transmission and steering issues

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Competing with the Nissan Quests, Hyundai Entourages and, of course, the sales-leading Chrysler "Magic Wagons" of its era, Honda's last Odyssey was a five-door, seven-seat machine with V6 power, front-wheel drive and over 4,170 litres of maximum cargo space.

Available in numerous trim levels to suit a variety of budgets, more basic units were badged DX or LX, while higher-end EX, EX-L or Touring models were available.

Look for feature content

What's the 4-1-1

- **Model:** 2005 to 2010 Honda Odyssey.
- **Vehicle type:** Minivan.
- **Price:** \$9,000 to \$36,000.

like navigation, a sunroof, heated leather, fog lamps, Bluetooth, power sliding doors, satellite radio, automatic climate control and plenty more.

Power came from a proven 3.5-litre V6 engine with between 240 and 255 horsepower, depending on the year. A five-speed automatic was standard on all models.

What Owners Like

Most Odyssey owners report satisfaction with overall comfort, ride, handling, power output and even fuel



► 2005 Honda Odyssey Touring

mileage. Styling, spaciousness and the remote-activated sliding doors were also favourites.

What Owners Dislike

Common complaints of the Odyssey include higher-than-expected wind and road noise at speed, some low-budget interior trim and small arm rests for front-seat passengers. Some owners report a low front end, which could get crunched on curbs and steep driveways.

Common Issues

Start a test-drive with a full check of the power sliding doors (if equipped) and tailgate for proper operation. Power sliding doors should open fully and smoothly, and the tailgate should remain open without any help. If that's not the case, the gas struts could be in need of replacement.

Note that power sliding doors in virtually all minivans will eventually fail and require expensive repair.

Skip them if possible.

Kill the radio and drive the Odyssey gently up to highway speeds, noting any hesitation or "shuddering" from the transmission in the process.

Many owners have noticed some form of vibration or "stuttering" from the transmission, and some have had torque converters or transmission mounts replaced as a fix.

If the transmission in the Odyssey you're considering

makes any unwelcome noises or vibrations, be sure to have it looked at by a Honda-trained mechanic.

Ensure the Odyssey's steering operates smoothly, easily and without any unwelcome vibration or "pulling." Numerous owners have reported steering-related issues that could be caused by a failing or faulty power-steering pump.

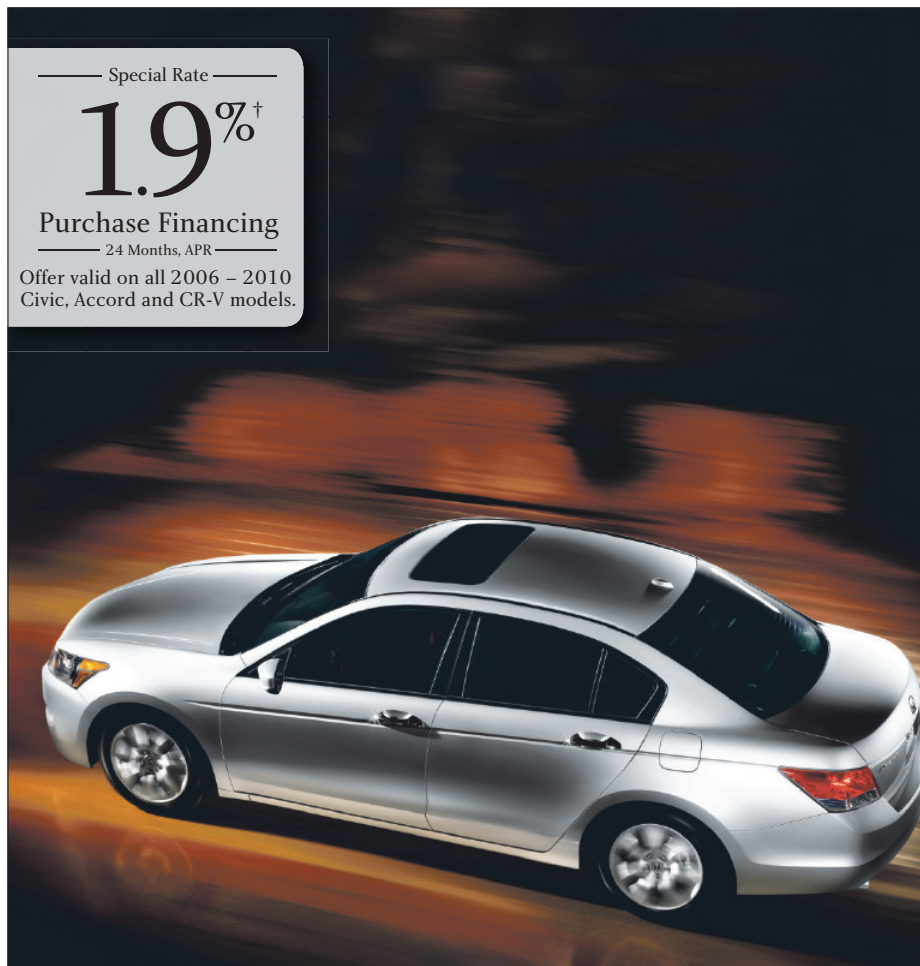
The Verdict

Common last-generation Odyssey issues are well-documented and should be easy to detect and repair for any Honda mechanic.

Most shoppers agree that Odyssey's comfort levels, high-resale values and relative fuel efficiency should outweigh the potential issues.



Check out Justin's video car reviews online at youtube.com/mr2pritch.



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The logo for GO FURTHER FOR LESS. The word "GO" is in large, bold, blue capital letters with a white-to-blue gradient. Below it, "FURTHER" is in smaller, bold, blue capital letters. Underneath "FURTHER" is the word "FOR" in a very small, bold, blue capital font, flanked by two horizontal lines. At the bottom, "LESS" is in large, bold, blue capital letters with a white-to-blue gradient, matching the style of "GO".

OH YEAH.



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WAITING IS THE SECOND HARDEST PART

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DRIVE
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Hands up if you enjoy taking your car in for service? I see only one hand up, and it's not in a very polite configuration, what with the middle finger so prominent...

OK, so we've established that getting your car fixed is not generally a pleasurable activity.

I think most of our displeasure stems from it being an expense and/or time-waster you wish you didn't have, and not a positive, or exciting purchase activity — like getting a new flat-screen TV, or going out for dinner at The Hungry Heifer.

So even if the repair

shop does everything perfectly, chances are you're leaving somewhat disgruntled, because of that dent on your charge card.

In my case, if I didn't have to shell out every time I took a vehicle to a repair shop, I'd probably do it at least once a week.

I love talking to and watching mechanics, and having something mended, maintained, or upgraded on one of our vehicles. But I have my limits.

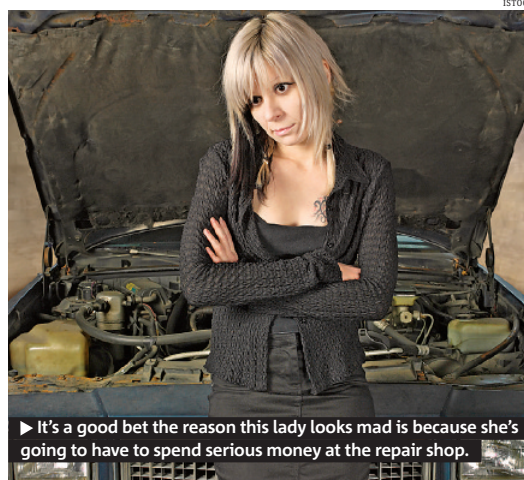
Like anybody, I've experienced my share of misdiagnosed repairs and their subsequent misery.

But they are not at the top of my list of repair shop turn-offs, because those are generally honest mistakes, made by people working on the sharp end of trying to right malfunctioning technology.

Reminds me of the sticker on my father's toolbox that read: "The man who makes no mistakes does not usually make anything."

No, topping my list of repair shop turn-offs is the waiting room.

Some shops and practically all new-car



► It's a good bet the reason this lady looks mad is because she's going to have to spend serious money at the repair shop.

dealerships don't like you bugging the mechanics while they work — and who can blame them?

So you must sit in this weird "living room" type area somewhere in the shop.

But it's like a living room in an alternative universe, where you can't leave until someone in charge lets you leave, and you can't change the stations on the TV, even if it's ShamWow, Oprah, or General Hospital.

If it's General Hospital, your aggravation is even

exasperated, because, as a very irregular viewer you don't know any back-story, like why Dr. Lainey Winters is so currently peeved at Dr. Matt Hunter.

Actually I lied.

The one-channel waiting room is really just the runner-up on my list of repair shop turn-offs.

The one right at the top is irrational pricing for switching tires around.

This spring a dealership charged me \$49 to take my snow tires off and put my summer tires on (the latter already on their own, dedi-

cated rims). But this same dealership charges only \$19.95 for a tire rotation — essentially the same amount of work, and work that doesn't even need to be done by a licensed technician.

When I questioned the service advisor about this weirdness, she sympathized, but said her hands were tied. And this is not an uncommon pricing strategy among tire and repair shops.

The main reason I took the car to this dealership was to find out why the "Check Engine" light was on. I threw the summer tires in the car at the last minute, knowing they'd charge me a bit more than other places, but it would save me a trip.

The "Check Engine" part of the work order they did brilliantly. Got the car in quick. Explained everything they did. Charged not a cent over what they quoted.

But the prevailing feeling I had as I drove away was that they "got" me on the tire thing.

And that Dr. Matt Hunter is probably not a stand-up guy.

Bridging the gap between gasoline and ethanol

DRIVING FORCE

JILL MCINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Vehicles and their fuel have always been a chicken-and-egg proposal. Stations don't carry fuels that cars don't use, and drivers don't buy cars that need fuel they can't find.

One way to bridge the

gap is with flexible-fuel vehicles, capable of running on gasoline, ethanol blends, or a combination of the two.

Several automakers offer flex-fuel engines that accept E85 — a blend of 85 per cent ethanol and 15 per cent gasoline. They work the same way as regular gasoline engines, but have special features to deal with E85's unique properties. Flex-fuel vehicles are usually identified by a badge and a yellow fuel filler cap.

"E85 is a little more corrosive than gasoline, so all the materials that fuel touches has to be designed for that corrosion," says Phil Petsinis, manager of government relations for General Motors of Canada.

"The other key factor is that ethanol has about a third less energy per litre than gasoline, so you have to flow more fuel to create the same amount of energy."



► The GMC Sierra is offered with a flex-fuel engine.

To handle corrosion, flex-fuel vehicles have fuel tanks, fuel lines, injectors and other components that can stand up to the fuel. These are usually made of steel with higher nickel content, Petsinis says.

Since ethanol burns slightly hotter, the valve seats in the engine are harder. A flex-fuel engine also uses higher-capacity fuel injectors and fuel pump to compensate for ethanol's lower energy density. These have to adjust the amount of fuel they pump depend-

ing on what's in the tank.

"Back in the 1990s and 2000s, we used an inline fuel sensor," Petsinis says.

"It put a micro-current through the fuel and could tell the resistance difference between gas and ethanol."

"These were expensive components. Today... we've been able to eliminate that component. By understanding the exhaust emissions, we can interpret what that engine is 'seeing' by using other sensors that exist in the vehicle."

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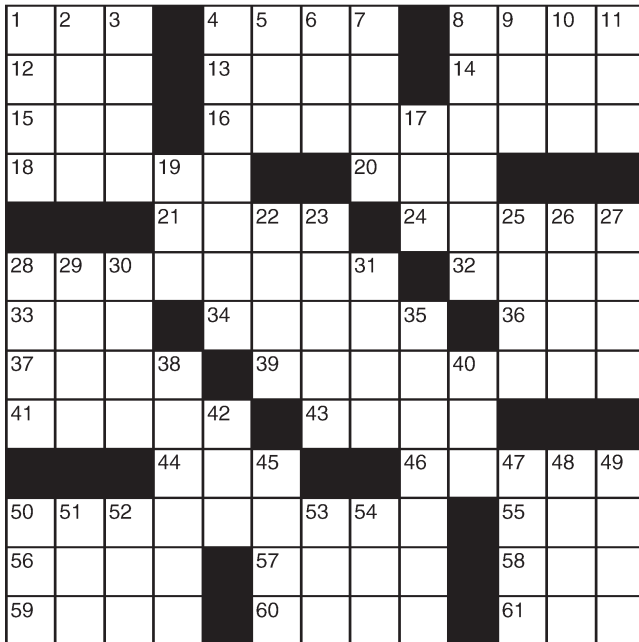
Crossword

Across

- 1 Wood-shaping tool
- 4 Peruse
- 8 This and that
- 12 "Ostentatious? —?"
- 13 Canal city
- 14 Finished
- 15 Hostel
- 16 "No Place That Far" singer
- 18 Summarize
- 20 Calendar abbr.
- 21 Sci-fi knight
- 24 Grit one's teeth
- 28 Arabian nomads
- 32 Vocal comeback
- 33 Lawyers' org.
- 34 Dutch bloom
- 36 Cage component
- 37 Bigfoot's cousin
- 39 1984 Winter Olympics site
- 41 Word on the street?
- 43 Lived
- 44 Bankroll
- 46 Expiate
- 50 Minuet-like dances
- 55 Book spine abbr.
- 56 Gel in a Petri dish
- 57 Nevada city
- 58 Doctrine
- 59 Frog's hangout
- 60 List-ending abbr.
- 61 — Moines

Down

- 1 Eastern potentate (Var.)
- 2 Finished
- 3 Galvanizing material
- 4 Aretha classic
- 5 Historic time
- 6 Melody

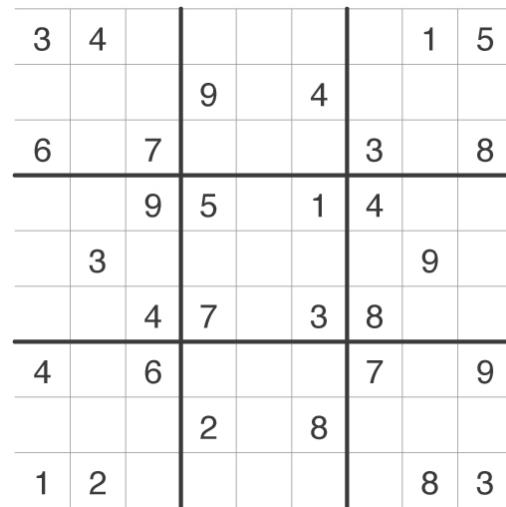


- 7 Unhearing
- 8 Of cattle
- 9 Eggs
- 10 X rating?
- 11 Day divs.
- 17 Work unit
- 19 1977 Steely Dan album
- 22 — ex machina
- 23 Relative by marriage (Var.)
- 25 Farm fraction
- 26 Con's weapon
- 27 Vagrant
- 28 Puts into words
- 29 First victim
- 30 — -tat-tat
- 31 Paddock papa
- 35 Sunshade
- 38 To the center
- 40 Lustrous black
- 42 Talk on and on
- 45 Challenge
- 47 "Metamorphoses" poet
- 48 Schnozz
- 49 "Desire Under the —"
- 50 Potential syrup
- 51 Past
- 52 Scooted
- 53 Trawler need
- 54 "CSI" evidence

► Yesterday's answer



Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ►

9	3	7	8	1	5	4	2	6
5	1	4	6	2	9	7	3	8
8	2	6	3	7	4	1	5	9
3	6	9	7	4	2	5	8	1
2	7	8	1	5	6	3	9	4
1	4	5	9	3	8	2	6	7
6	5	1	4	9	3	8	7	2
7	9	2	5	8	1	6	4	3
4	8	3	2	6	7	9	1	5

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

My Bebeboo, There is no feeling more comforting and consoling than knowing you are right next to the one you love. Happy 2nd year, my love. Thanks for crashing into my world. Olive juice! **JUNE OCHO PURPLE**

Roberto S.G, My beautiful baby i miss you so much i hope we'll be together soon and nobody will separate us again i love you and everything i do is for us for our future my love is all yours XOXOXOXOXO **INRY S.S.**

Scott, The first time I saw you, I thought you were the most beautiful person I had ever seen. Yrs later, I still look at you the same way. You are my Lover and Best friend, fate brought us together and our special love will KEEP us together. I LOVE You with all my heart, you are truly my soul mate xoxoxoxoxo! **KELLY**

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 If you want a relationship to get back to how it used to be, you must discuss the future — together.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 You know that you have what it takes to reach the top but others may still need convincing.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Best way to win others over is to act as if their approval means nothing.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 A family member will bring some unexpected news today. You will realize you should have seen it coming.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23 If there is someone you have been neglecting, now you must get things back to how they used to be.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Under no circumstances should you try to blame others for your failures.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You need to convince people you live, work and do business with that you know what you are doing.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The doubts and worries of the past few weeks will fade into nothing over the next 24 hours.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You see clearer and further than most other people, so trust what your inner voice tells you.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You will have to make a difficult choice concerning your work today.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 From today, you will have a clearer picture of what must be done to make life more enjoyable.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. No matter how reticent a Pisces you may be, you must speak up if you need help.

SALLY BROMPTON

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